

SAPC - 11758 ✓  
Copy 5 of 7

13 December 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Leave Time - CIA Contract Civilian Pilots, Project AQUATONE

1. This memorandum requests your approval of a recommendation contained in paragraph 5.

2. As you are aware, the third unit destined for overseas movement, Project Detachment "C", has completed its USCM and is still stationed at the training area in the ZI awaiting final instructions for overseas movement. Although the unit has been maintaining its operational efficiency since the completion of the USCM, a problem has, of course, arisen in keeping all personnel gainfully occupied during this transition period of processing for overseas movement.

3. Eight CIA contract civilian pilots have been trained to proceed overseas with Detachment "C" and the period of relative inactivity at [REDACTED] has had relatively serious consequences insofar as this category of personnel is concerned. The problem has been one of maintaining their operational efficiency and capability while at the same time not permitting them to sit around the trailer camp at [REDACTED] with practically nothing to do. The basic contract for each one of these individuals provides thirty (30) calendar days leave annually and it has been the practice with the preceding detachments to grant approximately ten (10) days pre-deployment leave to each individual just prior to overseas movement. With Detachment "C" however, due to the lengthy period from completion of the October USCM until probable deployment the first part of February 1957, we have found it impractical to charge entire time away from [REDACTED] against this contract leave as we would, in effect, exhaust the entire annual leave due each individual before he had even departed the ZI. The Detachment commander, in order to effectively solve the problem of inactivity and individual morale, permitted four (4) of his pilots to be absent from [REDACTED] from 13 November through 3 December 1956. These individuals were considered to be on a standby status subject to 12-hour recall in the [REDACTED] area. The remaining four (4) pilots were placed on a similar status in the same area from 3 December through 21 December 1956. The Detachment commander has approved time away from [REDACTED] to be charged against the contract leave provisions, for seven (7) of the pilots from 22 December 1956 through 6 January 1957.

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**SECRET**

SAPC - 11758

Page - 2.

4. Although we realize that this time away from the base of operations can hardly be classified as "available for duty", we recognize the practical problem which the Detachment Commander was faced with and approve in principle his decision. Certain problems are posed relative to certification of the actual duty status for these individuals during this period of time and we, therefore, wish to make the problem a matter of official record.

5. We, therefore, recommend for your approval that the Commanding Officer, Detachment "C", be authorized to permit absence from the training area of such contract pilots for periods determined necessary for the sake of efficiency and morale, until the deployment of the Detachment from the ZI, with such absence not to be charged against the contract provided thirty (30) days annual leave. The Detachment Commander would be further instructed that such personnel should be available on a 12-hour recall basis and, in order to protect the Government from compensation claims from accidents arising while individuals are in a leave status, any individual suffering a non-line of duty accident would be placed in an official leave status during the period of time covered by such accident.

*S*  
RICHARD M. RISSELL, JR.  
Special Assistant to the Director  
for Planning and Coordination

Recommendation in paragraph 5  
is approved:

*S*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

*20 Nov 56*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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